



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 19, 1998

Ms. Leah Curtis Morris
Law Offices of Harold F. Curtis, Jr.
2708 Washington Street
Greenville, Texas 75401

OR98-1243

Dear Ms. Morris:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 115571.

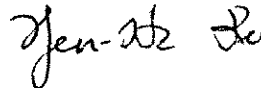
The City of Greenville Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for the crime statistics for two specific addresses and the department's reporting district inclusive of the specific locations. You have provided the Uniform Crime Reports for the city's central west and southern districts which encompass the districts in which the specified addresses are located. You state that the city's computer system does not provide location specific information; therefore, you assert that you do not have to prepare new information in response to the request.

Section 552.002 defines "public information" as information "collected, assembled, or maintained" by a governmental body. Gov't Code § 552.002. The Texas Open Records Act applies only to information in existence at the time a governmental body receives a request for the information. Open Records Decision Nos. 452 (1986), 342 (1982). The Act does not require a governmental body to create or prepare new information. Open Records Decision Nos. 572 (1990), 342 (1982). Additionally, chapter 552 of the Government Code does not require a governmental body to prepare information in a form requested by a member of the public. Open Records Decision No. 467 (1987). However, if a request for public information requires programming or manipulation of data or the information could be made available in the requested form only at a cost that covers the programming and manipulation of data, a governmental body is required to provide the requestor with a written statement describing the form in which the information is available, a description of what would be required to provide the information in the requested form, and a statement of the estimated cost and time to provide the information in the requested form. Gov't Code § 552.231(a), (b). Once the governmental body provides the statement to the requestor, the governmental body has no obligation to provide the requested information in the requested form until the requestor responds to the governmental body in writing. *Id.* §552.231(d).

You have provided the requestor with some of the requested reports. You explain that you "do not have any other information in any form that is more area specific than those reports." Therefore, you need not comply with the request for specific location information, but you must provide the requestor with a statement that complies with section 552.231 of the Government Code if the specific location information can be compiled through programming or manipulation of data.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Yen-Ha Le
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

YHL/rho

Ref.: ID# 115571

cc: Mr. Kirby Johnson
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